

Maine's Problem

- Abuse of prescription drugs in Maine has been on a rapid rise since 1997.
- Overdose deaths have increased dramatically in recent years primarily because of prescription drug abuse.
- Treatment admissions for prescription drugs have risen exponentially in recent years.

PMP Overview

The Office of Substance Abuse (OSA) is the state agency with oversight of the Prescription Monitoring Program. The purpose of this program is to provide clinicians with information to identify and treat their patient's misuse/abuse of prescription medications.

OSA's contractor, GHS Data Management, Inc., collects all of the data and generates reports for Schedule II, III, & IV drugs. Each Dispenser Pharmacy sends electronic files of all their transactions for these drugs to GHS.

Reports

Quarterly reports are automatically sent to prescribers when a threshold for a drug has been reached by a patient.

Prescribers can also request paper reports from GHS at any time on patients in their care.

Prescription Data Portal

OSA has developed a web portal for access to prescription monitoring program data. To obtain this data on line, you must first register with the PMP program.

Registration: To register with the PMP program:

- Point an Internet browser to <http://www.maine.gov/pmp>; then, follow the link to the GHS Web Site.
- Next, scroll down to the "Sign Up" button for new users, and click on it.
- Fill in the required fields (for "User Type" choose "Requestor" if you are a clinician).
- Click the "Submit" button.

Once registered & approved by OSA, your user ID and password will be faxed.

Online Reports: Once you have received your approval from GHS, you can build your own reports online. Use your user ID, password, & e-signature for the online portal: <http://www.maine.gov/pmp>. This portal allows registered prescribers & dispensers to enter a first name, last name, and date of birth to generate a report of all Schedule II, III, and IV drugs that have been dispensed to that patient.

Benefits to the Prescriber

1. You can obtain more background information on a new patient.
2. You can check on current patients you are concerned may have a problem with drug abuse.
3. You receive threshold warnings on patients who appear to be using prescriptions inappropriately.

Using Reports

OSA encourages you to use the PMP to get reports on your patients in order to provide them with better care.

Concerning Threshold Reports:

OSA encourages you to review your records to see if you can identify the person as a patient of yours and whether or not you wrote the prescription(s) shown on the report.

If you find that any of the prescriptions shown are not from your office contact the Prescription Monitoring Program Coordinator at OSA to get the record in error corrected

If you did write the prescription(s) on the report, please consider how to discuss your concerns with your patient. You may also want to keep the threshold report in your patient's record or chart.

The goal is to get patients the treatment they need if they have a drug related problem. Please inform the patient of what help is available.

If you need more information about help is available, refer to the *"Additional Information For Prescribers"* brochure (available from the Office of Substance Abuse).

Addressing Concerns

Confidentiality:

Be assured that OSA and GHS carefully protect patient confidentiality. Access to the data is limited to registered users.

The "Chilling Effect":

OSA only gives reports to criminal justice authorities if there is a subpoena from the Attorney General. This program is intended for prevention and treatment of those affected by illicit use of prescription drugs.

Data Accuracy:

GHS uses "Fuzzy Logic" to produce reports.

This method allows them to pull together and compare names that are quite similar (e.g., "John Smith" and "Johnny Smith").

OSA also encourages dispenser pharmacies to be thorough in their record keeping because the reports will only be as good as the data received.

GHS inspects and cleans all records that come in before they enter the database. GHS sends back any data that needs to be edited.

Resources for Questions

OSA - The Office of Substance Abuse wants the PMP program to be a benefit to prescribers. OSA staff are happy to assist in responding to questions and concerns about this program.

Please contact Daniel Eccher, PMP Project Coordinator, with any questions or concerns:

Phone: (207) 287-3363

Email: daniel.eccher@maine.gov

OSA's Web Site

Web: <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/osa>

GHS - GHS Data Management, Inc., is located in Maine. GHS staff are available to answer your questions regarding the reporting system.

GHS Contact Information:

Phone: (207) 622-7153

Web: <http://www.ghsinc.com>

OSA's Information Resource Center

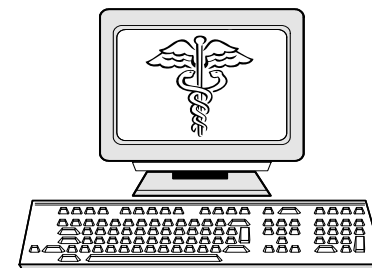
Phone: (207) 287-8900 or

1-800-499-0027

TTY: (207) 287-4475 or

1-800-215-7604

Maine's Electronic Prescription Monitoring Program



An Overview for Prescribers

This brochure will inform you of how the Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) works and how you, as a prescriber, can use this new tool to give better care to your patients.

